



The

GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
April 2020 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 29, Issue 4



Been living under a rock?



Come join the next GARS online meeting on April 14 and get caught up on things!

Message from the President

It's been about three weeks that most of us have been in self-isolation and sheltering in place at home, but it's starting to seem like an eternity. Let's hope and pray that in the not too distant future, we can venture out for shopping, eating out at favorite restaurants, attending club meetings and operating events together.



I've been wondering what our GARS life might have been like if COVID-19 had not taken over our lives. *Who knows....it might have been like this.*

"Let's hope and pray that in the not too distant future, we can venture out for shopping, eating out at favorite restaurants, attending club meetings and operating events together."

After a very successful TechFest 2020, we headed into March for the Dog Show at the Fairgrounds. The kennel clubs had record attendance and GARS members helping with the event got to see the new breeds this year including the Jack Doberman that can jump six feet in the air from standing on all fours. We also saw the Great Dane/Dachshund mix that stands very tall and looks like a goal post with the slim center.

We moved into April and the much anticipated radio contact with the International Space Station from McConnell Middle School. The astronauts were so impressed with the questions from the students that Ralph, KJ4CNC, and one of the students were invited to spend a month on the ISS with the launch of the first Crew Dragon capsule from SpaceX in a few months.

April continued with the Georgia QSO Party from Gwinnett Fire Station 31. Operating from Station 31 was so successful for Winter Field Day that QSO Party Chairman Dave, W3DJS, decided to expand the event to operate twelve stations. The turnout was so great that GARS made a very impressive 147,075 contacts on every possible mode and

earned top honors in the contest with 3,444,525 points. Not to be outdone (and maybe the reason for the big turnout) was the dinner menu with every operator getting a 12 oz. steak dinner. Now that's a way to throw a Georgia QSO Party.

For our April GARS Meeting, we heard that so many people were planning to attend that we would have no room at the EAA690 hangar. The GARS officers considered the idea of holding an online meeting for the overflow crowd, but

everyone thought that was a terrible idea. After all, who would watch a meeting online!

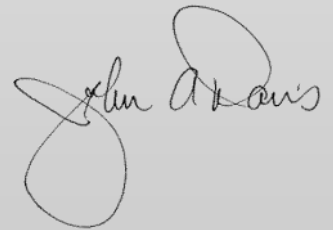
Well, time to come back to reality and back to the confines of our respective shacks. It doesn't hurt to dream and who knows, this may be our reality someday. In the meantime, let's all pull together and we'll get through this. After all, we have more time to spend on the radio and while we're at home, what was that antenna project I've been thinking of building since last summer.

I hope everyone is doing well and let's hope for Field Day 2020. See you on the air and at our next virtual meeting.

Until next month,

73,

**WB4QDX, Club
President**



***"It is not the class of
license the Amateur holds, but the class
of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]

GARS April Meeting and Workshop

Radio Programming for Handhelds

by Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 7:00 pm

SDRPlay and SDRUno

by Dave Slotter, W3DJS

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:00 pm

**GARS Meetings and Workshops
will be held online until further notice.
See <http://www.gars.org> for more information.**

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GARS Communications

<u>2 Meter Repeaters</u> 147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5 147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2	<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone (Offline for Maintenance)
<u>1.25 Meter Repeater</u> 224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0, 1.6 MHz Offset	<u>Other Resources:</u> <u>APRS</u> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR
<u>70 Cm Repeaters</u> 444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5 442.100(+) MHz Tone 100 442.325(+) MHz Tone 100	<u>D-STAR</u> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget
to support our
advertisers at the
back of the
GARzette.**

Snail Mail Address:
GARS
P.O. Box 492531
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and The *GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: editor@gars.org Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the April 2000 GARzette:

- Pictures from the March 2000 TechFest;
- The “GARS Challenge 2000” runs from March 18, 2000 thru March 17, 2001;
- The TechFest Y2K Can-a-Thon was deemed a success;
- GARS Members attend “Spring Fling”, an event for Webelo Cub Scouts;
- Howie Gould, W9HG, discusses being a ham for 40 years.

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



Amateur Radio “Guidelines”

Amateur Radio operators are requested to adapt to the Coronavirus mitigation guidelines as they apply to amateur radio operating.

All ham radio operators are encouraged to stay at least 6 feet from the microphone in order to maintain proper separation from others. The distance may be reduced if a mask is put on the microphone.

CW operators should wear appropriate gloves when handling keys.

There should be no more than 10 stations on the same frequency at the same time.

Disinfect your knobs, switches, etc. before operating ... especially touch screens and PTT. Shoe covers should be worn when using foot switches. Use of hands-free VOX is strongly encouraged although from 6 feet away, it will be necessary to shout.

Disinfect all antenna cables coming into the station.

Only mobile stations and walkie-talkie contacts are permitted where sit-down service has been banned. The 6 ft. microphone separation guideline is suspended for these types of operation, but a mask on the microphone is strongly

recommended.

Mobile operators are encouraged to remain in their vehicles except to get necessities.

Operators should leave their operating positions only for necessities.

Outdoor antenna work is allowed as long as there is social distancing among all who are present.

Hoarding of batteries, spare tubes, etc. is discouraged and is unfair to others. We are in this together.

New equipment and parts should be ordered online for front porch delivery.

Do not test (tune) your equipment unnecessarily. Testing should be reserved for those who actually need it.

Your understanding and cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Source: Elecraft K3 Groups.io list

[Thanks to Wayne - W4TZB, Bob - K4TAX, Ben - K4QF, and others. - Ed.]

GARS HELP WANTED

- GARzette Editor — Looking for someone to become the next GARzette Editor, starting off as a GARzette Committee member / Assistant Editor. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be nice, but any experience with Microsoft Office products is helpful. You will be trained in the use of Microsoft Publisher. Most of the content is supplied by others, but occasionally you may wish to write content, especially in your area of expertise. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eggers, WB2RIS at editor@gars.org.

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and help from club members is needed.

[PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

In Other News

Hamvention QSO Party Set for Saturday, May 16

The Hamvention QSO Party, a sort of virtual Dayton Hamvention®, will take place on the HF bands on May 16, which would be the Saturday of the now-canceled event. “Let’s celebrate the many years we have all had at the Great Gathering we call Hamvention,” said an announcement over the signatures of Tim Duffy, K3LR, and Michael Kalter, W8CI.

“We also want to remember Ron Moorefield, W8ILC, who never missed a Hamvention and contributed to our club until his recent death. Let’s light up the airwaves with our remembrances of Hamventions of the past! See you on the air!”

The Hamvention QSO Party will be a 12-hour event, 1200 UTC until 2400 UTC on May 16. Operate CW or SSB on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, exchanging signal report and the first year you attended Hamvention. If you have never attended Hamvention, send “2020.”

Designated members of Hamvention’s host, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA), will activate DARA’s W8BI. Participants can add 10 points for each band/mode contact with W8BI (12 available). Post scores (number of contacts) to 3830scores.com within 5 days of the event. An online certificate will be available to print. No logs will be collected. N1MM Logger+ has provided a User Defined Contest module for the event. More information is on the N1MM Logger+ website.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/hamvention-qso-party-set-for-saturday-may-16>



Ham Radio Clubs Connect Amid Social Distancing

As college campuses have sent students home to finish their classes online, members of the K7UAZ Amateur Radio Club in Tucson — a student organization at the University of Arizona — have moved their radio club meetings to, well, the radio. K7UAZ Station Manager Curt Laumann, K7ZOO, said that when the university largely shuttered its campus, club president Ken Gourley, KM6BKU, immediately transitioned regular meetings to an on-the-air format using the university repeater. The club already was holding a weekly net on Monday nights, but the added on-air club meetings offer another opportunity to get on the radio.

In recent months, in-person K7UAZ club meetings have hosted presentations on such topics as EME (Earth-moon-Earth) communication and an AMSAT CubeSat simulation. As meetings move on the air, Gourley explained, he will send out a copy of meeting presentation slides so members can follow along. “I will lead the net and start with check-ins,” he said. “We will work our way through the slides, discussing previous events, upcoming activities, the treasurer’s report, projects, etc. I will take new check-ins every 5 – 10 minutes. We will conclude with officer comments and general comments. Hopefully it won’t take more than 30 – 45 minutes.”

ARRL staff member Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, who liaises for the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Initiative (CARI), underscores the importance that all radio clubs encourage on-the-air activity in this challenging time. “While I know many businesses and schools have moved to online meetings and learning, I can think of many advantages for a radio club to move club meetings to on-air,” Inderbitzen said. His list includes:

Holding short meetings on the air will encourage individual club members to practice their personal radio communication capabilities. Station and skills readiness are tenets of the Amateur Radio Service.

Nets generally help new radio amateurs gain practical operating experience. Think of this current challenge as an opportunity to encourage your club’s new hams to get on the air.

As online fatigue and a feeling of isolation will inevitably creep into our “new normal,” being on-air will introduce variety into our communication practices. As many of us are now homebound working or studying, turning on a radio to connect with your ham radio peers will be welcome respite!

At K7UAZ, experienced club members provide instruction for members to access the K7UAZ ARC repeater from 2 meters and via Echolink. The club also offers members the opportunity to borrow handheld radios or to be patched in via HF or videoconferencing, if they live too far away from the repeater.

ARRL is encouraging university radio clubs to network with other clubs and students via ARRL’s CARI Facebook group. “Keeping our campus radio clubs going will ensure we are, together, advancing the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio. It’s our collective mission,” Inderbitzen said.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/ham-radio-clubs-connect-amid-social-distancing>

In Other News (cont'd)

Contest Entry Features Multiple Operator Locations and Remote Transmitter-Receiver Site

Restrictions on gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic recently prompted a novel approach to multioperator/multi-transmitter operation. The WW2DX entry in the CQ World Wide WPX SSB Contest over the March 28 – 29 weekend featured 10 operators, each at separate locations around the US and in Europe, all operating via a single remote site on the coast of eastern Maine. WW2DX entered in the multioperator high-power category, racking up a claimed score of 32,026,176 points. NR6O operated remotely from the west coast with a smaller complement of remote operators in the same category.

“It was so much fun to work this contest,” one of the WW2DX operators, 17-year-old Connor Black, W4IPC, remarked. “This was the most fun I’ve had in a contest ever. We had no equipment failures and pulled off, hopefully, a new US record.”

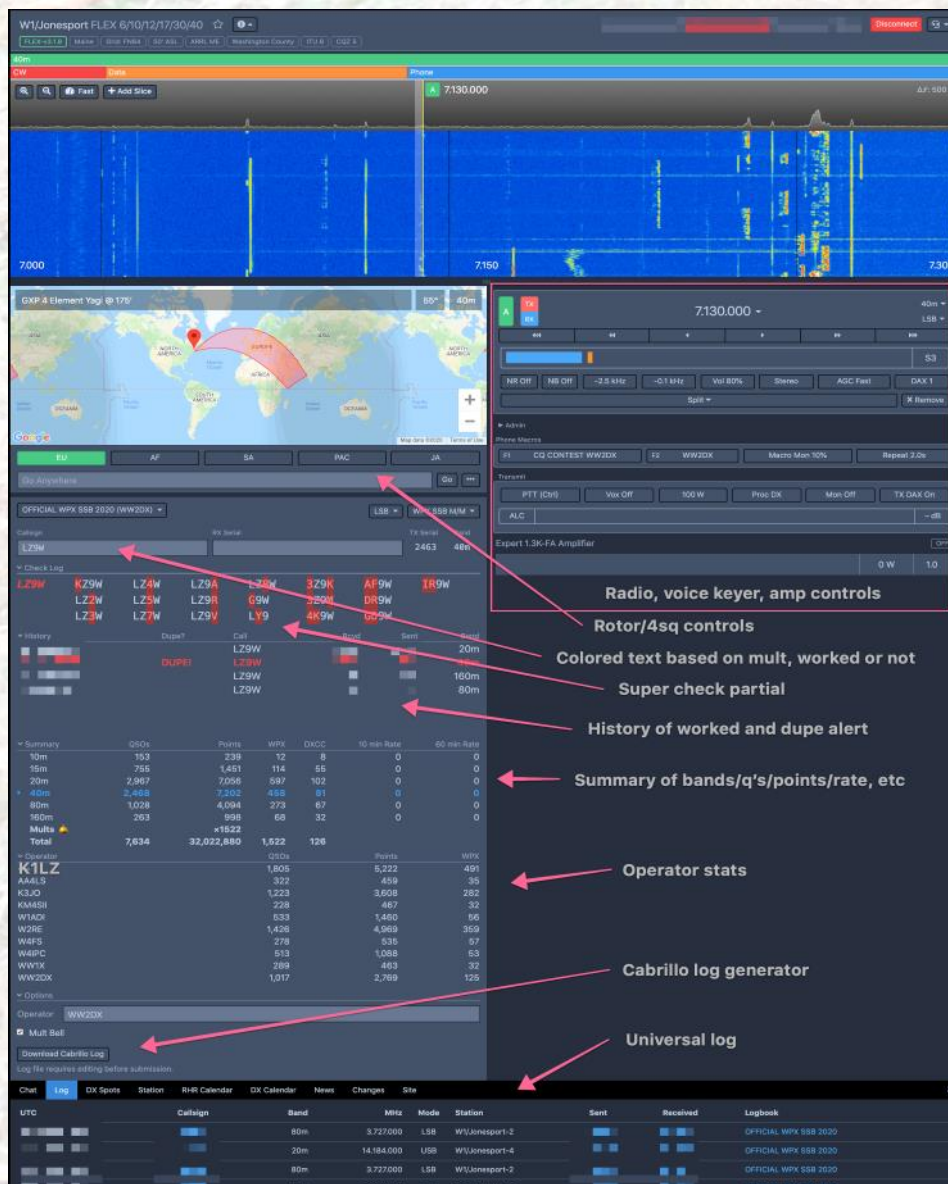
In soapbox comments on the 3830scores.com website, Lee Imber, WW2DX, expressed his belief that this year’s contest would be viewed as a turning point in multioperator contesting. Participants had nothing but a web browser and a USB headset to operate, with the closest team partner some 625 miles away. “No radio, no hardware, no traveling, and no external logger,” he noted.

Team members brainstormed various configurations. Rock Schrock, WW1X, custom-engineered the requisite software. In addition to Black, the team included a few other young — but experienced — contestants: 13-year-old Charles Hoppe, AA4LS; 17-year-old Mason Matrazzo, KM4SII, and 21-year-old Tucker McGuire, W4FS. The more senior team members were K1LZ, K3JO, W1ADI, W2RE, WW1X, and WW2DX.

“We also used Slack and created a channel for the team to stay connected over the weekend, and this ended up being half the fun,” Imber said. “Game time.” Another feature included the “multi bell,” which would chime whenever a new multiplier was logged. He said it was “awesome having seasoned pro operators sharing and mentoring these young contestants.”

“The world is experiencing something on a whole new level,” he observed. “I think it’s clear that multi-multi contesting in general is also going to see big changes moving forward. I am looking forward to that.”

The ARRL Contest Update Editor Brian Moran, N9ADG, said in this week’s newsletter, “Until restrictions on gatherings are relaxed, this is a winning model for multi-multi efforts. Perhaps this is also the model of future big-gun multi-multi stations.”



What the 10 operators saw at their positions.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/contest-entry-features-multiple-operator-locations-and-remote-transmitter-receiver-site>

In Other News (cont'd)

Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

Many individuals and groups organizing events for Field Day 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”



Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.

Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/field-day-2020-a-time-to-adapt>

Some Countries Permitting “STAYHOME”-Suffix Call Signs during COVID-19 Pandemic

[UPDATED: 2020-04-06 @ 1508 UTC] Some countries around the world are allowing radio amateurs to use special “STAYHOME” call sign suffixes. For example, listen for A60STAYHOME/# call signs from the United Arab Emirates. In Canada, Michael Shamash, VE2MXU, is using VC2STAYHOM “to raise awareness for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.” Canada limits call sign suffixes to seven characters. On the air from Indonesia will be 8A1HOME; Indonesia limits suffixes to four characters.

Australia has permitted the Radio Amateur Society of Australia (RASA) to use the special call sign AX2020STAYHOME. At 14 characters, that may set a record for world’s longest call sign. Also look for 9K9STAYHOME from the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society; TC1STAYHOME, the COVID-19 special event call sign from Turkey, and HZ1STAYHOME from the Saudi Amateur Radio Society.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/some-countries-permitting-stayhome-suffix-call-signs-during-covid-19-pandemic>

[Additional information: The following awards are available (for more information see <https://www.dx-world.net/stay-at-home-award/>):

(Continued on page 12)

Gwinnett ARES Highlights

By Karen Whited, AB4NW

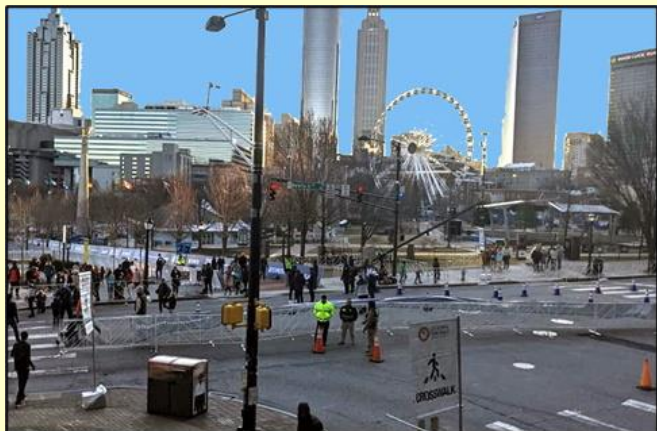
Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the EOC on Hi Hope Road. If you are interested in emergency communications, contact Hall Collier W4IGE at w4ige@arrl.net.

US OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS-MARATHON ARES Trailer Deployed – February 29

At Centennial Olympic Park in midtown, the Atlanta Track Club held the Olympic Team Trials for the Marathon to select the Olympic marathon team. The trials determined the three men and three women who will represent the United States in the marathon at the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo. Our Gwinnett ARES trailer was deployed for communications support, serving as the control station for all races. Jim Penland N4RAR of DeKalb ARES ran a simplex net, along with Gwinnett ARES participants John Davis WB4QDX and Ryan Duncan KI4CSM.



U.S. OLYMPIC
TEAM TRIALS
MARATHON



MEMBER PROFILE: Russell Prevost AB4QQ

Russell lives in Buford and is originally from Mexico and Maine. He has two sons and five grandchildren in the area. He earned a BS in electrical engineering



technology and an MS in Engineering Management from Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Prior to his 2011 retirement, Russell was involved with industrial control companies in product management for 36 years. He was regarded as an industry expert in various types of electronic sensors and authored several technical papers. He retired from Siemens in Norcross after 20 years where he served as product manager.

Russell was first licensed in 2017 and has been a GARS and ARES member since that time. He is also a member of Alford Memorial Radio Club. He owns an ID-51A+, ID-5100, IC-7100, IC-7300, FT-857D, FT-991A, and a BETEC UV25x4. He uses a random wire end fed, dual band 70 cm & 2 m, and a mag mount triband (70 cm, 1.2 m and 2 m). He enjoys GARS and ARES community service activities, the science of ham radio, and the camaraderie. Russell is also a VE, a CERT instructor, an alumnus of the Citizen's Police Academy, and has volunteered extensively with Gwinnett County Police.

MARCH "VIRTUAL" MEETING – March 24

Bob Garza K4TLG, Georgia Section ARES Connect Manager, conducted a tour and navigation through ARRL's ARES Connect. This database tracks amateur operator hours while participating in ARES events and public service events requiring ham radio skills.



Held the day after the *U.S. Olympic Team Trials-Marathon* on February 29, the *Publix Atlanta Marathon, Half Marathon, & 5K* capped off Atlanta's marathon weekend. Starting and ending in

Centennial Olympic Park, the event had over 3000 runners for the 5K and over 7000 for the half marathon. The Atlanta Track Club requested amateur radio support from area hams for aid stations, SAG vehicles, pace car, and along the course. Mike Parrott N4MEP participated.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only SEVEN primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN	Bill - KK4AUA
David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ
Russell - AB4QQ		

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager

GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in March

Michael Schrage (KO4CUR)
Lisa Schrage
Joseph Schrage

New Members: 3

Total Members as of April 1, 2020
342

**Join GARS members for our
weekly breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays**

at

**Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

(Suspended until further notice)
([Directions](#))

**The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in April:**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

Angelo Bione (WB9RWL)
Jim Boyd (KJ4YN)
Paul Branson (KA4YZR)
Donna Broome
Doris Brown
Charles Burts (K4CHB)
David Carmichael (KM4GBI)
Mark Case (K5MTC)
Ana Dominguez (KF4UOC)
Leland Ford (K9SDR)
Dozier Griffith (WA4DEO)
Emma Guidry (KN4TEY)
Stan McDonald (KI4H)
James McGinty (W4BGT)
Richard Morris (KG4BVU)
Michael Parrott (N4MEP)
Gemarl Perry
Russell Prevost (AB4QQ)
Linda Tcimpidis (W6LWT)
Keith Wells (WA8B)
Evelyn Whalen (KE4PLW)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.), please e-mail the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ,
Ivette Santiago, KN4OYE, Cathy Kelley, KN4DML

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

Donating to GARS

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Amazon Smiles;
- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit <http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

GARS on Social Media

GARS has moved to Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:
<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:
<http://gars.org/facebook>








Follow GARS on Twitter:
<http://gars.org/twitter>

















Join GARS on YouTube:
<http://gars.org/youtube>

G A R S Volunteers





OFFICERS

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

MANAGERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Glen Wendt, TechFest Chair	W3WWT	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Joe Biddle, Winter Field Day Chair	AD4PZ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	
Don Stewart, Elmer Manager	KW4AL	
Dave Slotter, Georgia QSO Party Chair, Workshop Leader and Public Information Officer	W3DJS	

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA		Rick Cobb, N4XYX	
Mike Weathers, ND4V		Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee	

GARS MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
GENERAL Meeting Minutes
3/10/2020

President John Davis (WB4QDX) and Opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 9:00pm
EAA Facility, 690 Hanger Rd. Lawrenceville, GA.

Introductions and Visitors: Visitors were recognized with [54] in attendance.

Treasurer Report: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) – Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) read the financial report in Pam's absence.

Membership Report: Karen Albritton (K14HPP) reported that Membership is at [342].

Programs: Randy Collins (N4COR) Announced Upcoming Programs:

- **April 2020** – Favorite Ham Radio Web sites and Podcasts

GARS Workshop - Dave (W4DTR) outlined the next workshop sessions coming up:

- Dave announced the new Workshop leader: **Dave (W3DJS)**
- **March 17** – GARS Coax Cable Checkup with antenna analyzers

- **Suggestions for Workshop topics – Send to workshop@gars.org** or see Dave (W3DJS)

GARS Education – Ralph (KJ4CNC) mentioned:

- **HamCram** scheduled for March 7th & 14th. \$25 for both days including Lunch each day and the Exam. Sign up.
- Mason Elementary School STEM Event set to March 25th & 26th.
- McConnell Middle School has been given ARRISS schedule to April 6th or 7th. Ralph is hoping to get the Tuesday pass at 1:30 for a 71 Degree pass.
- Fourteen students have been selected and the questions have been sent off to NASA for Review to cover in ~11 minutes.

Georgia QSO Party - Dave (W3DJS) announced that this contest will be **April 11th** and due to the Easter weekend, we'll not operate on the 12th. 9am for setup and operate from 2-9pm.

Fund Raiser (Dog Show)- David (KA4KKF) March 26 - 29 at the Gwinnett Fairgrounds. 6am - 2 pm. Mark your calendars. Volunteers needed! Please Sign up on GARS.org for one or two shifts per day.

Break:.....

Program – Certificate and Awards Hunting by Bob Hensey (K4VBM)

Submitted by: Joe Biddle (AD4PZ), GARS Secretary

(Continued from page 7)

- **GMA – GLOBAL MESSENGER AWARD**
This award honors contacts to 100 or more different countries (DXCC), during this time period, which should include at least five (5) messenger (STAY HOME) stations.
- **SHA – STAYHOME AWARD**
There will also be an award for contacting a minimum of five (5) OH*STAYHOME -prefixes with a maximum number of other stations in other countries signing the STAYHOME -suffix. In Finland all numbers/regions 0 thru 9 will be activated. The highest number contacted, and all with up to three (3) less than the achieved maximum will be awarded.

The following COVID-19 related callsign are known at the time of publication (sources - Daily DX and DX-world.net, check source or QRZ.com for on the air times):

- **5B, CYPRUS:** 5B4STAYHOME
- **9K, KUWAIT:** 9K9STAYHOME
- **A6, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:**
A60SH/1 thru A60SH/10
A60STAYHOME/11 thru A60STAYHOME/14
- **CU, AZORES:** CR2STAYHOME
- **CT, PORTUGAL:** CT1STAYHOME

- **DU, PHILLIPINES:** DX0STAYHOME
- **E7, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA:** E7STAYHOME
- **G, ENGLAND:** GB4SAH
- **HZ, SAUDI ARABIA:** HZ1STAYHOME
- **OH, FINLAND:**
OH0PYSYKOTONA thru OH0PYSYKOTONA
("PYSYKOTONA" is Finnish for "STAYHOME")
OH0STAYHOME thru OH0STAYHOME
- **ON, BELGIUM:** ON4HEROES, OP2STAYHOME, OQ4ANGELS, OR2STAYHOME, OR4STAYHOME, OR8STAYHOME, OS0STAYHOME, OT2STAYHOME, OT7STAYS SAFE
- **PA, THE NETHERLANDS:** PC6STAYHOME
- **TA, TURKEY:** TC1STAYHOME
- **UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA:** R3STAYHOME
- **VE, CANADA:** VC2STAYHOME, VE9HOME
- **VK, AUSTRALIA:** VI2020STAYHOME
- **YB, INDONESIA:** 8A1HOME
- **YS, EL SALVADOR:**
YS1STAYHOM0 thru YS1STAYHOM9
- **Z3, MACEDONIA:** Z30STAYHOME

Look for additional stations on the air. Stay Home! - Ed.]

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar
> For more information click the links <

April 2020

19 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

(no ARRL contests in May)

June 2020

13-15 [June VHF](#)

20 [Kid's Day](#)

27-28 [Field Day](#)

July 2020

11-12 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2020

1-2 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)

15-16 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)

16 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

September 2020

12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

12-14 [September VHF](#)

19-20 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

October 2020

10-11 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2020

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)

21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

December 2020

4-6 [160 Meter](#)

12-13 [10 Meter](#)

20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

January 2021

1 [Straight Key Night](#)

2 [Kid's Day](#)

2-3 [RTTY Roundup](#)

16-18 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

February 2021

8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)

20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

March 2021

6-7 [International DX– Phone](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

04/11/2020 - [Raleigh Hamfest, ARRL Roanoke Division Convention](#) (CANCELED)

Location: Raleigh, NC

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://rarsfest.org>

04/25/2020 - [Calhoun Hamfest](#) (CANCELED)

Location: Resaca, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.k4woc.com>

04/25/2020 - [Savannah Area SwapMeet and Hamfest](#) (POSTPONED until Oct 24, 2020)

Location: Savannah, GA

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

Website: http://coastalamateurradiosociety.net/wpW4LHSblog/?page_id=871

05/15/2020 | [2020 ARRL National Convention at Dayton Hamvention®](#) (CANCELED)

Location: Xenia, OH

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Dayton Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://hamvention.org>

06/06/2020 - [Atlanta Hamfest, ARRL Georgia State Convention 2020](#)

Location: Marietta, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC & Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club W4BTI

Website: <http://atlantahamfest.org>

06/20/2020 - [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, ARRL TN State Convention](#)

Location: Knoxville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville

Website: <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2020	GARS Recurring Calendar
TechFest (www.techfest.info) January 18 Winter Field Day January 25&26 General HamCram TBD Dog Show Fundraiser Cancelled for 2020 Georgia QSO Party April 11 (home ops) North metro area Fox Hunt April Memorial Day Parade Cancelled for 2020 ARC/KARC Hamfest June 6 Field Day June 27&28 Tech HamCrams Mar (canceled) , Nov JOTA October Maker Faire TBD Stone Mt. Hamfest November 7&8 Holiday Party December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting (online until further notice) ♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop (online until further notice) ♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm (suspended until further notice): GARS Ham Exam Session Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519 ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater ♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am (suspended until further notice): GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
<p style="text-align: center;">May GARS Meeting: TBD</p>	

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 29	March 30 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	March 31	1	2	3	4 Breakfast at Golden Corral Suspended until further notice
5	6 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	7	8	9	10	11 (no Breakfast) GA QSO Party at Home 2 PM - 12 AM
12 GARS VE Team Testing Session (Canceled) HAPPY EASTER	13 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	14 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting (Online)	15	16	17	18 Breakfast at Golden Corral Suspended until further notice
19	20 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	21 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Workshop (Online)	22	23	24	25 Breakfast at Golden Corral Suspended until further notice
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	May 2 Breakfast at Golden Corral Suspended until further notice

Metro Testing Sessions

[Please check with each session contact for current status.—Ed.]

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building

4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA

Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T

(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560

w4rlg@bellsouth.net

First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC

470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.

Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD

(770) 536-3056

Second Saturday

10:00 AM

Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center

13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL

9:30 am (Walk-ins welcome)

Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge

840 VFW Drive

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP

Email: fhaynes@vatmom.net

(678) 467-3712

Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm

Fire Station #24

Mall of Georgia Boulevard

Buford, GA 30519

Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

E-mail: exams@gars.org

First Sunday, EVEN Months

VEC: WCARS and W5YI

2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg

66 McElroy Street

Winder, GA 30680

Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI

(404) 281-6581

E-mail: W4WYI@ARRL.net

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam Results

February Results

[February results were not available on the date of publication of the March 2020 GARzette; the March results were published then. The February results are now available and listed here. - Ed.]

We had a small crowd for the exam session on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Three individuals showed up for exams and two were successful in earning their Technician license.

As usual, this exam session would not have been possible without our team of Volunteer Examiners. The following VE's helped with this session and they are much appreciated:

- Don, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)
- Frank, KV4SP
- Russell, AB4QQ
- Donna, KM4FMW
- Jamie, KX4HA
- Dave, W4DTR (CVE)
- Bill, WB4WTN
- Sid, N4NQ (Co-CVE)

73, *Chuck*, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org

GARS VE Website:

<http://gars.org/exams>

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 pm @ United Way Service Center

6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville

Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK

(770) 942-6466

Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech

VanLeer Elec. Building

Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.

For more information go to

www.w4aql.com and click on "Test

Sessions"

Metro Club Meetings

[Please check with each club for meeting schedule and method (online, etc.) - Ed.]

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

Fire Station #1, Training Room

112 Haynes Street, Marietta, GA

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ

1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta, GA

Meeting is at 7:30pm

Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library

1344 South Broad Street, Commerce, GA

Meeting is at 6:30pm

Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218

Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus

Meeting at 7:00pm

Sawnee Amateur Radio Association

Beaver Toyota

1875 Buford Highway, Cumming, GA

Meeting at 6:30

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church

Annistown Rd & Spain Rd

Stone Mountain, GA

Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Board Room of The Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA

at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept.

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA

meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:

<http://www.gars.org/>

[Note: No store access; curbside delivery available until further notice. - Ed.]

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